



Sepas Award Group

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The Sepas Award honours an organization or an individual whose work has made a significant contribution toward securing the full enjoyment of the human rights of queer communities that subject to discrimination or abuse on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, anywhere in the world.

The award will be announce every year on August 30th in commemorates Saviz Shafaei's birthday, the first Iranian gay activist who died in 2000 by cancer.

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August 30th, 2011

(Toronto, Canada) Today, In memory of Saviz Shafaei's 60th Birthday, The Sepas Group is honoured to announce the 2011 award recipients in recognition and appreciation of their contribution to the Iranian queer community/cause.

The nominees in **Applied Art** category were Amir Hossein and Elahe Nejat; and the Sepas Award is presented to **Amir Hossein** to appreciate his contributions to Iranian queer's organizations and magazines.

The nominees in **Fine Art** category were Najva Soleimani and Tara Inanloo; the Sepas Award is presented to the outlaw artist **Tara Inanloo** for discovering all those people inside her.

The nominees in **Performing Art** category were Armen Ra and Mahshad Torkan; the Sepas Award goes to the best alive performer and Iranian-American openly gay Therminist, **Armen Ra**.

The nominees in **Activism** category were Hossein Alizadeh and Mahshid Rasti; and the Sepas Award is presented to **Mahshid Rasti** to appreciate her support and contribution to the Iranian queer cause and speaking out on behalf of those who could not.

The nominees in **Media** category were Gay City News and Hamideh Aramide (Voice of America); the Sepas Award goes to **Hamideh Aramide** for all her interviews and shows regarding Iranian queers in order to inform mainstream society and fight with homophobia.

The nominees in **Writing** category were Reza Pesar and Saviz Shafaei; and the Sepas Award is presented to **Reza Pesar** for his years of dedication and contribution to the Iranian queer cause as a blogger.

The nominees in International category were Philipp Braun and Doug Ireland; the Sepas Award goes to **Doug Ireland** for all his interviews and articles about Iranian queers and bringing Iranian queer cause out from the closet and put it on the kitchen table conversations.

The members of Sepas Group board of directors congratulate all award recipients and nominees for what they have done and encourage them to get involved in the cause more than before for a brighter tomorrow.

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